

**County of San Diego
Valle De Oro Community Planning Group
P.O. Box 936
La Mesa, CA 91944-936**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: October 20, 2009

LOCATION: Otay Water District Headquarters
Training Room, Lower Terrace
2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd.
Spring Valley, California 91978-2004

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 PM Jack L. Phillips, presiding Chair

Members present: Brennan, Brownlee, Feathers, Fitchett, Forthun, Hewicker, Manning, Phillips

Absent: Hyatt, Henderson, Millar, Mitrovich, Reith, Ripperger, Wollitz

2. FINALIZE AGENDA: As shown

3. OPEN FORUM: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of October 6, 2009 **VOTE: 6-0-2** to approve. Abstained: Brennan, Forthun

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Fuerte Drive between Calavo Drive and La Rueda Drive: County Department of Public Works proposed operational improvement plan including enhanced roadway striping and signage.

PHILLIPS introduced the project. Kenton Jones, Bob Goralka, Murali Pasumarthi and Dan Brogadir were there representing the County Department of Public Works. Jones stated that our Group's recommendation to install an All-Way Stop sign at Fuerte Drive and Alzada Drive did not meet warrants. The DPW staff had met with our Group's subcommittee to discuss the intersection. DPW developed a list of recommendations and a plan sheet indicating the location of those improvements.

DPW's traffic engineering recommendations for Fuerte Drive approaching Alzada Drive S-curve are as follows:

1. Install yellow light emitting diodes (LED) on the modified advance intersection/curve warning signs for eastbound and westbound traffic. The signs will provide information to motorists regarding the unique roadway geometry.

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**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
AND LAND USE**

Sign will depict Fuerte Drive with a bolder line than Alzada Drive to clarify the appropriate through movement.

The LED at the intersection warning signs will draw motorists' attention to the curve before entering, rather than within the curve.

2. Relocate "slippery when wet" sign west of La Rueda Drive. Previous location will be replaced with the eastbound direction of travel modified intersection warning sign.
3. Install yellow reflectorized raised pavement markers along the centerline at shorter spacing to provide motorists sense of increasing speed approaching the curves. A total length of approximately 300' for shorter spacing.
4. Install dashed yellow turkey-track centerline through the Alzada Drive intersection to guide motorists through the intersection/curve.
5. Extend white edge line along Fuerte Drive to better define intersection of Alzada Drive
6. Install three chevrons within the curve for the eastbound direction of travel to increase visibility. The oversized curve warning sign and directional arrow will be removed and replaced with chevrons.

Alzada Drive:

7. Reconfigure centerline striping and stop pavement markings as tangent to Fuerte Drive. Current centerline visually aligns with Fuerte Drive centerline allowing high speed access from Fuerte Drive and indicates a false through-move.

Fuerte Drive, outside the curve

8. Staff reviewed the visibility at the intersection of Crestland Drive and determined the line of sight far exceeds minimum stopping and design criteria for the prevailing speed along Fuerte Drive. Since motorists are provided enough information to determine when they can safely enter Fuerte Drive, staff does not recommend over sizing the intersection warning signs for Crestland Drive.
9. The speed feedback signs along Fuerte Drive, west of the intersection of Alzada Drive have the ability to be programmed. Staff will determine programming details once the speed limit review has been completed and the posted speed limit is approved through the Board of Supervisors.

According to DPW, these improvements can be installed within 6 – 12 weeks. Public discussion followed the DPW presentation.

Jackie Hollywood of 10704 Fuerte Drive, near La Rueda Drive, thanked the County officials for their work. She is still concerned about the speed and wants the speed limit to be re-evaluated. She thinks this project is fine.

Diane Bernal of 10796 Fuerte Drive wants to re-visit the improvements in six to eight months after the installation with a follow up meeting. She stated that motorists often cut the corner on the south side of Fuerte at Alzada and would like something in place there to keep motorists in the lane.

Darcy Barghols of 10796 Fuerte Drive lives in the residence with the horses. She inquired if DPW can make the Stop sign at Alzada a true stop instead of a running stop. Kenton responded that the speed limit cannot be changed however maybe they can do something with delineation. Alzada does not meet Fuerte "square" although their recommendation to reconfigure the Alzada centerline striping and stop pavement markings may help.

PHILLIPS stated that he is convinced that these improvements are necessary after studying the traffic data. He **moves** to recommend incorporation of these changes, the sooner the better. (FITCHETT seconds). BROWNLEE wants to meet in six months to review the project.

Kenton wants to review the project one year after installation.

The **motion** is amended to recommend incorporation of these changes, the sooner the better, and to review the project one year after installation.

There was more discussion concerning excessive speed on Fuerte and DPW staff said that they would check the speed monitors and their programming.

Forthun is concerned about the severity of change of the centerline of Alzada at Fuerte Drive.

Motion is approved with a Vote of 8-0-0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. County Wastewater District Consolidation: Proposal to consolidate all County sewer districts (each with separate service rate structure) into one County district with a single service rate.

DPW Sanitation Manager Dan Brogadir and Jeff Bosvay presented the project. There are currently nine Sanitation Districts with three outlying Districts in Campo, Pine Valley and Julian which have their own treatment plants. The Spring Valley Sanitation District makes up 55 to 60% of the whole County with 34,000 customers. All the sewage flows to the City of San Diego's Metro facility. 60% of the sewage fees go to the City for the use of the Point Loma sewage treatment facility.

DPW proposes to consolidate all nine Districts into one District. The Spring Valley Sanitation District has \$23 million in capital reserves. However, their pipelines and sewers are about 50 years old and have met their projected lifetime. The proposed rate structure covers Operations & Maintenance (O & M) but over the next five to ten years will be drawn down. There will need to be a rate increase to cover those capital costs.

The DPW representatives promoted consolidation because it would provide rate stability and make management easier. Their goal is to keep rate increases at 5% or less. Next year under consolidation the monthly sewer service rate would be \$28. The following year or year after there will most likely be a rate increase. There will be a three year budget which would go to LAFCO for approval. There are some unknowns in five years and past with treatment capacity with the City of San Diego. They just received their third waiver of the plant but if it is not renewed in five years it could affect us.

PHILLIPS is concerned with the Otay sewer district expanding service area where they shouldn't be. He discusses Policy I-107 which states that they can't expand beyond the urban limit line. There are policies in effect that the Spring Valley Sanitation system shall not expand to provide sewer for new development. This consolidation may defeat the intent of the stated mitigation for the outfall facility.

Brogadir states that they want to go to the Board of Supervisors with the proposal for consolidation in late December and submit a resolution of application to re-organize to LAFCO.

BROWNLEE Questioned how they will prioritize what projects get done if they consolidate the reserves. The response was that the projects will be done in the District it originates in.

FORTHUN asked how the expansion would be paid for. Brogadir said that expansion would be paid for not by service fees but by expansion reserves and capacity charges. The District would function operationally the same after consolidation but there will be no layoffs. It will be more efficient.

FITCHETT asked if they have done a cost benefit analysis of the consolidation. What will be the cost to the people of Spring Valley for subsidizing the other Districts?

Brogadir said that the benefit to the Spring Valley District would be through increased reserves. As far as the age of the systems, Spring Valley and Lakeside Districts are the oldest. Winter Garden is the newest. Benefits would be felt more in other Districts due to pooled resources and reserves.

PHILLIPS asked what benefit consolidation would be to the Spring Valley District. We have a nice capital reserve though you say it will run out soon. Brogadir

responded that down the road the Spring Valley District would become part of a larger entity with larger reserves. The District will not operate differently than now. DPW will be able to manage the system administratively.

PHILLIPS **moves** not to support consolidation without seeing a favorable cost benefit analysis for the Spring Valley Sanitation District and the development of a citizen's oversight panel to monitor the District consolidation. (FITCHETT seconds).

FORTHUN thinks our rates will increase faster without consolidation.

VOTE to not support consolidation **8-0-0**.

7. LAND USE

a. AD09-049: Administrative Permit for a 2,840 sq. ft., 18-ft. high detached vehicle storage building at 1188 Coco Palms Drive.

MANNING presents the project. The existing garage is 8' from the property line. The new garage structure will be larger but will be 25' from the property line with larger side setbacks.

MANNING **moves** to approve the project. (FITCHETT seconds).

FORTHUN asks what the structure will be used for. The owner responds that it will be used for his camper and cars and storage. **VOTE** to approve **8-0-0**.

8. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – PHILLIPS reported that County staff has not yet determined the date for the County Board of Supervisors meeting or the County Planning Commissions' position. Apparently the County has once again changed the Planner who will review the project.

Our next meeting will be November 17th.

9. ADJOURNMENT: 8:48 PM

Submitted by: Jösan Feathers